

**Pastoral Report
Alex Toney
AGM, November 24, 2020**

As I write this Pastoral report, I am initially struggling to think back beyond March, when the first widespread restrictions came into effect regarding Covid-19. While 2020 has presented itself to be a very interesting year indeed­–full of challenge, uncertainty, and many changes–I am compelled to look beyond the pandemic that has occupied the world’s attention to the many ways God has been (and is) at work in our midst, for which we can give thanks.

At the end of 2019, Charlotte and I journeyed through our first Advent in the Pacific family and I experienced my first PCC Christmas Eve leading with the worship team. Our men’s choir was a highlight on both Christmas Eve, and for the Fireside Carol Sing that took place a week prior. We had a wonderful and memorable time singing Christmas Carols together. I certainly look forward to the day we can do that again once Covid has diminished! As we finished the year, we said goodbye to Brian Buhler as he retired and was sent off with a special service which was also a memorable time.

As a staff team, alongside a contingent from the Board of Elders and congregation, we had begun a journey of targeted vision through our Strategic Initiatives­–a process of organizing our goals around Our Compass points. As the new year started, we were well underway in moving forward in some key areas of ministry. For myself, prayer ministry was the primary focus. Although Covid-19 and its demands significantly diverted my attention from that task and put a pause on the in-person prayer times we were seeking to develop, I am encouraged that God has brought us a new Lead Pastor who has a deep passion for prayer, and I am excited to see how PCC will continue to grow as a praying community.

As we entered 2020 awaiting who God would bring to lead our church and our staff team, we welcomed Brad Julihn as interim pastor. Brad brought a passion for scripture and teaching that was a blessing throughout the time he was with us.

Two highlights early in the year were a youth-led worship team for a Sunday service in February and the Worship Central Conference with the worship team in early March. Both of these events were encouraging opportunities for team development, exhortation, growth, and fellowship.

As March 12th came, we found ourselves shifting gears and moving to virtual gatherings, online church, zoom meetings, and more. While the restrictions we have experienced over the past 8 months have been difficult for all, Pacific was able to pivot successfully to continue ministering to our church community. Throughout this time, I effectively became a video producer! I’m thankful for those who have assisted me in producing our online services and for new opportunities for congregational involvement in ministry that have come with this change.

In the past couple of months, much of my attention has been given to moving us towards our next iteration of church online and in person–livestream services! This has been an exciting time of research, setup, and vision-casting and I am thrilled that each person I have spoken to is excited about this next season at PCC. We have a team lined up to carry out this new area of ministry and I look forward to seeing how everyone’s creative efforts and worshipful service will come together to bless the people of Pacific and the community around us.

In September, we said goodbye to Jim Heuving, our longtime Executive Pastor here at Pacific. Jim’s support in this season of transition was integral to myself and our team and I am thankful for his encouragement and leadership. Also in September, we welcomed Jon ImBeau as our new Lead Pastor. Jon has already been a fantastic pastor and leader to myself and our team and I have been greatly encouraged by his support. I believe that Jon has been brought to us for such a time as this and I am excited for where God will lead us as we continue to journey through our sermon series, Behold: The Kingdom of Heaven.

Although Covid-19 has brought difficulties and required a lot of hard work to navigate, I am thankful for how it has brought our team together to support and encourage one another, and for how our community has rallied together to generously provide for Pacific’s ongoing ministry. I look forward to this next season in which I foresee a deepening in prayer, increased dependance on the Lord, and our community witnessing the Kingdom of Heaven come near. As Charlotte and I approach the finishing stretch of Charlotte’s pregnancy and eagerly await the birth of our child in February 2021, we are deeply thankful for Pacific and we look forward to raising our family as part of this wonderful church community.